

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00127 161118Z

71

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 AS-01 /022 W

----- 127289

R 161000Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AMCONSUL UDORN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5954

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA, TH

SUBJECT: FORMER EMPLOYEES OF US MISSION IN LAOS

1. SINCE THAI/LAO BORDER OPENED JANUARY 1, SEVERAL FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THIS MISSION WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN UDORN IN REFUGEE STATUS HAVE RETURNED TO VIENTIANE AND APPROACHED US ABOUT PROBLEMS RELATING TO SPONSORSHIP, CLEARANCE FOR REFUGEE PROGRAM AND FINAL SALARY PAYMENTS. WE HOPE YOU CAN SPREAD WORD AMONG FORMER EMPLOYEES OF USG IN LAOS WHO NOW INTEND TO GO TO U.S. AS REFUGEES THAT THEY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT RETURN TO LAOS AND SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT APPROACH EMBASSY HERE. OUR REASONS FOR WISHING TO PREVENT THEIR COMING BACK TO VIENTIANE TO SEE US ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT ON U.S.-LAO RELATIONS. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT OPERATING LAO REFUGEE PROGRAM HERE AND ARE NOT ENCOURAGING LAO CITIZENS TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY. HOWEVER, LAO GOVERNMENT REMAINS SUSPICIOUS OF "U.S. INTERFERENCE" IN LAO AFFAIRS. EVERY WEEK LOCAL PAPERS CARRY ARTICLES ABOUT LAO OR THAI "SPIES" ARRESTED IN LAOS AND ACCUSED OF WORKING FOR "U.S. IMPERIALISTS." IF LAO AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE THAT MISSION HERE IS APPROACHED BY FORMER EMPLOYEES NOW IN UDORN, THIS COULD CONFIRM THEIR BELIEF THAT LAO WHO HAVE LEFT COUNTRY ARE STILL WORKING FOR US AS "SPIES" BASED IN THAILAND.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00127 161118Z

B. DANGER TO EMPLOYEES. AS NOTED ABOVE, IF RETURN OF FORMER USG EMPLOYEES IS DISCOVERED BY LAO AUTHORITIES, THOSE WHO RETURN COULD BE ARRESTED AS "SPIES." WE WILL BE UNABLE TO ASSIST THEM, AND DENIALS FROM US WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE BELIEVED IN ANY EVENT.

C. UNREST AMONG REMAINING MISSION EMPLOYEES. WHEN FORMER EMPLOYEES RETURN FOR A DAY OR SO TO PURSUE SOME PERSONNEL MATTER, THEY INVARIABLY SEE OLD FRIENDS AT EMBASSY AND SPREAD COMBINATION OF FACT AND RUMOR ABOUT LAO REFUGEE PROGRAM IN THAILAND, WHICH INCREASES OUR LOCAL PERSONNEL PROBLEMS.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: IF YOU CONCUR, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THAT YOU SPREAD WORD IN REFUGEE COMMUNITY UDORN THAT RETURN TO LAOS (FOR OTHER THAN VITAL FAMILY REASONS), IF DISCOVERED, COULD BRING INTO QUESTION WHETHER PERSON WERE LEGITIMATE REFUGEE AND COULD PREJUDICE HIS POSITION IN U.S. REFUGEE PROGRAM. IF YOU BELIEVE THIS IS TOO HARD A LINE TO TAKE, WE WOULD IN ANY CASE BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD STRONGLY DISCOURAGE OUR FORMER EMPLOYEES FROM APPROACHING EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE.

3. FYI. ONE REASON FORMER EMPLOYEES HAVE RETURNED RECENTLY IS THEIR UNHAPPINESS ON LEARNING THAT THEIR FINAL SALARY PAYMENTS IN KIP ARE NOW BEING CONVERTED INTO DOLLARS AT THE 1200 RATE, RATHER THAN AT THE 750 KIP RATE WHICH APPLIED UNTIL MID-DECEMBER. THERE IS UNFORTUNATELY NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS, AS THE EMBASSY CAN PERFORM ACCOMMODATION EXCHANGES ONLY AT THE OFFICIAL RATE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF THE EXCHANGE. FORMER EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT THE USG'S OBLIGATIONS TO THEM ARE IN KIP AND AN EXCHANGE, EVEN AT THE 1200 RATE, REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL BONUS TO THEM.
TEARE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, ESPIONAGE, REPATRIATION, FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI00127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760017-0603
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760148/aaaabqkf.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER EMPLOYEES OF US MISSION IN LAOS
TAGS: SREF, LA, TH, US
To: UDORN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006